

# New Mission News

COMFORTING THE AFFLICTED AND AFFLICTING THE COMFORTABLE SINCE 1980 • APRIL 2000



Hope Algarin Tangeman

## Join the Cesar E. Chavez Walk 2000 on April 29

**A**t noon on April 29, 5,000 people are expected to gather in Dolores Park for a march through the Mission neighborhood in celebration Cesar Chavez' living legacy - the fight for human rights and social justice. This is a battle he and the United Farm Workers fought and won in the fields of California against what seemed to be impossible odds. It is a struggle that continues today in varied forms, waged in different places but with the constant credo: that courage, unity, and non-violent action are the most powerful responses to exploitation and oppression.

It is especially appropriate that this event is being held in our community, now at a crossroads of conscience and self-identity. In the early days of organizing the UFW, Chavez was faced with challenging the established and apparently unshakable power of the growers. The growers owned the land and, according to the popular mythology they promulgated, the newspapers they controlled and the politicians they purchased, they could do anything they pleased. It had been ever thus. Anyone causing trouble could be blacklisted and there were always imported workers from Mexico. Braceros, who would work for less.

On the Mission's demographic front lines today you will hear the same old arguments and threats, as people are intimidated into leaving their homes. They are told the landlord's rights are absolute, cause trouble and you'll be blacklisted,

and there are always yuppies from Silicon Valley that will pay more.

In Delano, Cesar Chavez opposed the economic "realism" of the status quo with human values more fundamental than dollar per hour compensation. Speaking of an early and costly victory he said, "The strikers and all the people involved in this struggle sacrificed a lot, sacrificed all their worldly possessions. Ninety five percent of the strikers lost their homes and their cars. But I think in losing those worldly possessions, they found themselves." They found dignity and respect which, embodied in the form of a union, are always dangerous to those in power.

Chavez' legacy is the belief that an idea can overcome force: the basic tenet of nonviolence. In the 1960's it was an idea articulated in a single word 'huelga' (strike). At one point the Sheriff of Kern County banned the use of the word and arrested Chavez and 43 others for chanting it. The FBI, alarmed when told by an informant that huelga also meant 'revolt', consulted the Bureau translator who told him that wasn't true. (In retrospect the translator was wrong.)

The IPO driven dot-economy and the prevailing culture of greed are becoming so pervasive in our lives that the inevitability of the rich triumphing over the poor has once more become the predominant worldview.

Thirty years ago, the inevitability

## Mayor Brown wants dot-com companies to pay more

By Victor Miller

Multimedia businesses that are driving San Francisco's economic boom and skyrocketing land values should be paying more to create affordable housing, improve transportation, and provide childcare than is currently required of other types of development, according to Mayor Willie Brown. "I think, for one, there should be greater requirements to contribute to an affordable housing fund," the mayor said at a meeting

with the San Francisco Neighborhood Newspaper Association.

Brown objected to a proposal being put forward by some elements of the dot-com industry that would exempt them from any mitigation fees by defining multimedia enterprises as "business services".

"There's a whole lot of creative activity that goes on in there that has nothing to do with business services. An accountant

Continued on Page 4

## Remembering Lola McKay

By Ted Gullicksen

Lola McKay, who died at age 83 last month, got her final wish: she died in her home of over 40 years. But her personal struggle to stave off eviction

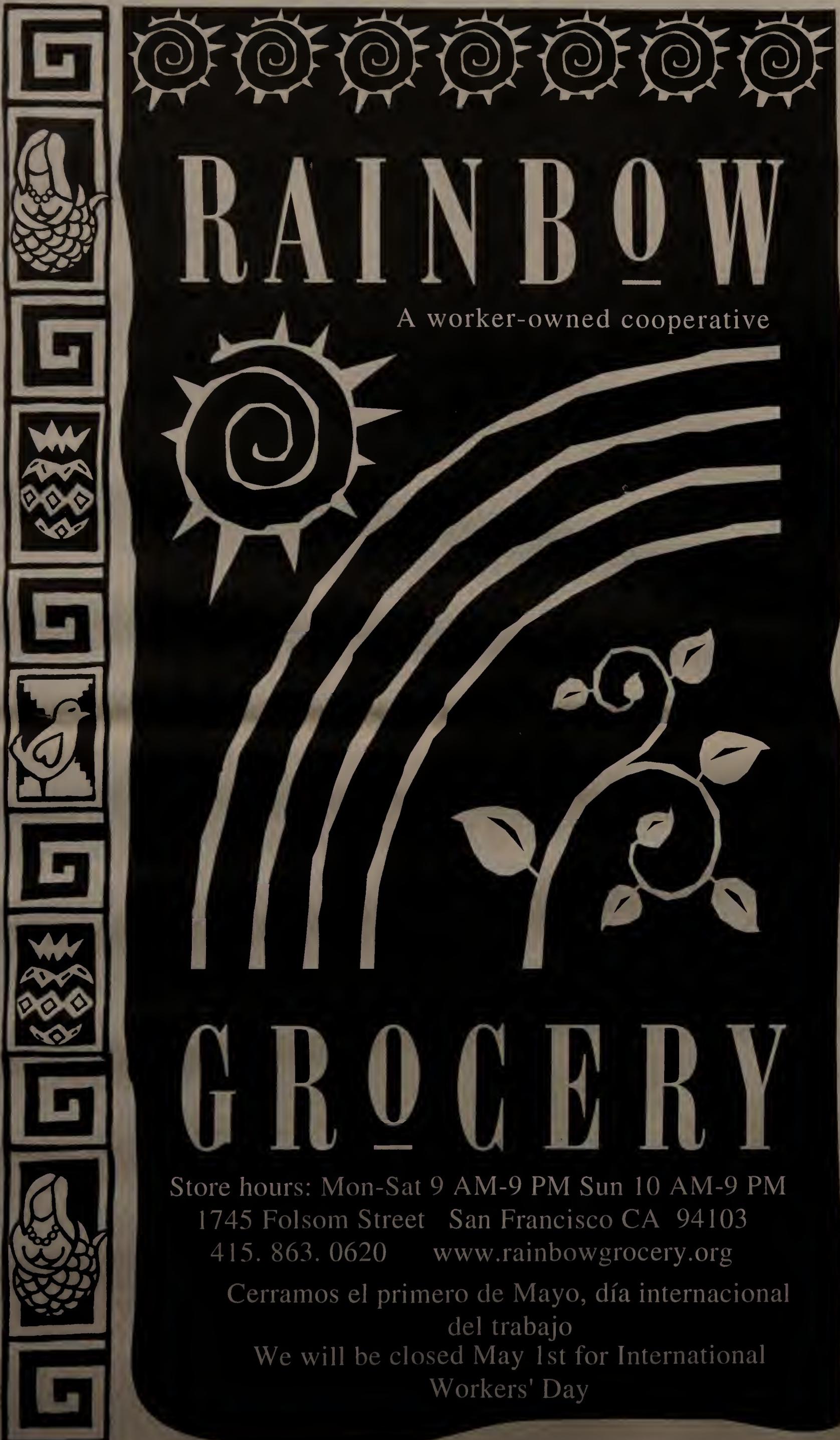
cost her. Under terms of a settlement, she had to move by August or she would be dragged out by the Sheriff - a Sheriff who enforces the laws that say it's okay to evict a senior so that a real estate broker can make huge profits. The eviction fight and pending move drained her and Lola, whose health was generally okay, passed away in her sleep.

She probably died years earlier than she would have had it not been for the eviction and there's a lot of grumbling that the landlord, John Hickey Brokerage, will actually profit off her death rather than being punished for it.

The Hickey Real Estate Company evicted Lola under the Ellis Act so they could convert her apartment, and three others in the building, into condos. Hickey planned to use loopholes to bypass the

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To the egress:

# Fight back, they can't just throw you out

By Calixto Robles

I moved to the Mission from Oaxaca almost 17 years ago and I got this room on Guerrero Street. It was the smallest room in a flat with six bedrooms and a small studio upstairs. It was only \$80 a month then and for a while I shared it with another person.

Two or three years later my brother moved up from Oaxaca and also rented a room in the same flat. In 1986 I started attending classes at Mission Cultural Center and then began teaching there. Now I'm an Artist-in-Residence. I do mostly etchings and silk screen work.

The landlady [property manager], who lived at our building for over 25 years, died in November of 1999. We heard from the owner right away. First he sent us a letter saying we had no right to be there and we'd have to leave right away. Then he sent a letter saying we'd better leave or he'd call the police. I went to St. Peter's Housing Committee on Valencia Street and they told us that these weren't legal eviction notices; he was just threatening us, just trying to scare us so we'd move out without any trouble.

The owner, Walter Moreano, claims he didn't know we were living there, and that he didn't know the landlady was renting out rooms, even though he'd come by the place at different times while I was there. I had even let him in a couple of times when he came by to fix something. He knew what was going and he still accused us of trespassing. The landlady collected all the rent in cash but I had plenty of proof such as telephone bills and mail to show I'd been living there a very long time.

Everybody but my brother and me left within a month. At first I didn't want to fight this thing but then I started thinking about all the things that are happening in the Mission right now, and all the people being evicted; the gentrification and all that. So, I called him up and said "Hey, Señor Moreano, this is Calixto, I live in the

house on Guerrero and I would like to talk to you because we would all like to keep renting the place." And he said something like thanks for the offer but he needed to do renovations and we should be out by the following week. I told him I would talk to a lawyer about that.

When we got the 30-day notice, I went to the Eviction Defense Collaborative on Market Street. They told me what my rights were and helped me with all the legal paper work. Right now we are in the process of going to court. I understand it can be a lengthy process.

If I have to move it will be difficult to stay in the City. I have some friends who have been helping me look, just in case. I really want to just stay where I am. Besides that, I think people should know that they can't just be thrown out. We have rights and the only way to get respect is to fight for them.

*To the Egress is a series of first person accounts of Mission District evictions, if you have a story to tell, write to the New Mission News at 3288 21st Street #202, San Francisco, California 94110*



Calixto Robles Photo by Gary Stenger

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## Brown Continued from Page one

is a business service. Dot-coms can't be classified as business services they don't fit," the mayor said. "Believe me, in considering what to do with these new dot-com operations, these dot-coms ought to pay for Muni and they ought to pay for housing and they ought to pay for childcare and they ought to pay realistically."

Many activists want multimedia to be classified as office space and be subject to the same mitigation fees office space developers must contribute under Proposition M, a slow growth measure passed by the voters in 1986. Brown made it clear he did not think Proposition M applied to the dot-com industry. Nor does Brown believe that Prop. M is a good deal for San Francisco.

"I support having multimedia defined as what it is — multimedia. Prop. M came into existence long before anybody knew anything about multimedia. The same thing happened with cell phones. In the early sixties nobody knew what a cell phone was and there's no way any legislation could have been promulgated effecting cell phones then, only subsequently... We need to look at the phenomena called multimedia because it is important to the economy of San Francisco. It is not 'office' by any stretch of the imagination. It doesn't keep office hours, it doesn't function like an office and it doesn't have the same configuration as an office."

Brown cited an affordable housing agreement the city made with the Mission Bay development as an example of a developer paying 'realistically': "We got 6,000 units; the project is projected to produce 25,000 people. Multiply 6,000 units by 4 people per unit and you get 24,000. That's the first time you actually get a connection between jobs and housing." Of course, not all Mission Bay units will necessarily accommodate four people.

Brown said he considered the existing developer fees contained in Prop. M inadequate. "I think the extractions should have been far greater than they are, I think somebody sold out when they went for the smaller amount of money," he insisted.

It's not clear who this someone could be. In the development battles of the early 80's, downtown office developers stubbornly fought all attempts to make them pay for the impact of their projects on the social environment. Prop. M passed only after office development had slumped and opposition was less vociferous. Prop. M reflects the politics of what was possible at the time.

Brown was not specific on how or when the new zoning classification of multimedia would come into effect. In last year's fight over live-work lofts, no new regulations restricting loft construction were put in place until developers had built as much as they wanted. If getting dot-coms to cough up "realistic" fees takes the same leisurely route, the whole issue may be academic. But he did say, "I think they should approve new dot-com companies, pending the development of a new development category, but I don't want to hold them up. I don't want them to think they're not welcome. They bring in a whole new set of opportunities."

He singled out the Digital Mission Project, that trains San Francisco residents for jobs in the dot-economy as an example, "They're taking them and turning them into quality employees, who are being absorbed almost instantly by this new industry."

Whatever its impact the expansion of the multimedia industry remains at the center of the debate over San Francisco's future.

## Lola McKay Continued from Page 1

condo law and stood to make a profit of nearly \$1 million (\$250,000 per unit) off the conversion.

Hickey had already emptied three of the four units. He could have sold those three units; made \$750,000 and let Lola have a lifetime lease. A reasonable person would be overjoyed with the prospect of making \$750,000 in one year and would be more than happy to let Lola live out her life in peace knowing that eventually

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One of the saddest parts of Lola's struggle and her death is that stories like hers occur unnoticed, every day, all over the city. As San Francisco gentrifies and apartments are turned into condos, hundreds of seniors are evicted from their longtime homes each year. Most don't receive all the attention that Lola's case received. Life ends soon for most of these seniors, as once healthy and vibrant people are torn from their homes, their neighbors, their friends and communities. Forced into nursing homes or senior homes far outside of the city, few survive for more than a few months.

Lola became the representative for all these seniors and her spirited fight against a greedy landlord inspired the community. Her death should now re-inspire the community to fight even harder the forces of greed and gentrification — forces which killed Lola and which will eventually kill the Mission.

## Confronting the Dot-Com Invasion

By Joan Holden and Eric Quezada

The Mission has a big stake in the current City Hall debate over how to classify what the City calls Multimedia, otherwise known as high-tech. Common sense says it's 'office use', because it's clean, squeezes many workers into little space and requires no heavy lifting. Developers who are cashing in on the high-tech boom want it called 'business service' or 'industrial', claiming it creates a product.

The difference is not academic. Proposition M, passed by the voters in 1986 imposes an annual limit on office construction, and the Downtown Plan, approved in 1985, exacts fees from office projects to offset their impacts on transit, housing, and childcare, plus a "1% for arts" tax. A Business Service or Industrial classification lets developers escape all of these limitations and fees.

This is as clear an abuse of the Industrial classification as phony live-work lofts. Supervisor Leslie Katz is drafting "compromise" legislation that would make "Multimedia" a new category, subject to lower fees than office projects, and exempt from Prop M limits: in other words, allow the invasion to roll on nearly unhampered, and subsidize displacement.

As Judy West often notes in these pages, high-tech offices now displace more low-margin businesses, nonprofit offices, and artists than live-work lofts do. And the ripple effects on housing are seen all around us, as owners empty rent-controlled buildings and sell them to high-paid newcomers.

This community must jump into the

## Guest Opinion

zoning debate, opposing a free ride for the High-tech Industry and proposing policies that would allow new technology, the arts scene, small businesses and low-income communities to co-exist. The Mission should demand that the City impose full fees on all high-tech office development when projects are built in low-income neighborhoods or areas reserved for industry.

The City should require training programs and jobs for neighborhood residents, a percentage of land donated for affordable housing, and a percentage of space at reduced rents reserved for displaced industry, nonprofits and artists. Permits should be denied to any project that evicts tenants, like Bryant Square (between 20th and 21st Streets) where 50 small businesses and artists have been evicted. All these requirements have precedents in current city policy.

Affordable housing developers, employment advocates and artists need to unite around these demands. Otherwise we will be played off against each other.

THE PLANNING COMMISSION HEARING ON THE BRYANT SQUARE PROJECT IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 13 IN ROOM 400, CITY HALL, AFTER 1:30 PM. CALL THE COMMISSION CALENDAR LINE THAT DAY FOR APPROXIMATE TIME: 558-6422,

*Eric Quezada is a member of PODER, People Organizing to Demand Environmental Rights.*

*Joan Holden is a member of the Coalition for Jobs, Arts, and Housing and Author of the SF Mime Troupe's 1999 anti-lost satire, "City for Sale".*

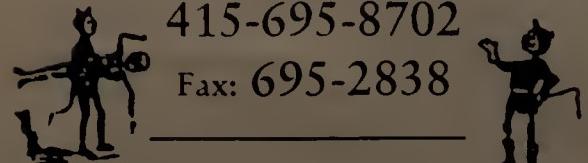
## Chavez

Continued from Page 1

must have seemed just as certain to the vested interests of the time but the idea of the union prevailed because one man expressed it eloquently, expressed it repeatedly, and expressed it fearlessly. Eventually, for millions of people, "huelga" needed no translation just the exclamation point.

This is a good time to move forward with the legacy of Cesar Chavez, Join the march.

*After a performance by a troupe of Aztec dancers at 11:30am, the march, led by Dolores Huerta, will begin at noon. Marchers will proceed down 18th Street to Mission, go south on Mission to 24th and go east on 24th to Utah and south on Utah to Potrero del Sol Park. At the park, from 2 to 5pm, there will be food and nonalcoholic drink booths, speakers and entertainment provided by the Cuban band Irie and Teatro Campesino. The event is being presented by the Cesar Chavez foundation. For more information call 674-1884 or surf on over to www.ufw.org.*

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## Cesar E. Chavez Walk



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of the United Farm Workers of America*

Participants register from 8:30-11:30am at Dolores Park (18th & Dolores). Walk begins at 12pm and proceeds to Potrero del Sol Park (Potrero & Cesar Chavez), for a festival of food, music, and entertainment from 2-5pm.

Yes! Register me today to walk in the Cesar E. Chavez Walkathon!

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

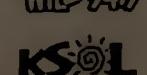
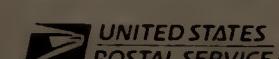
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Please clip and mail to: Cesar Chavez Walk 255 9th St, San Francisco, CA 94103  
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Checks payable to the Cesar Chavez Foundation All proceeds benefit the Foundation, an organization committed to inspiring current and future generations through Cesar's ideals of social action through non-violent means



New Mission News



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"Secret World" by Anastasia Keriotis

## Will the digital divide in the Mission be bridged?

Can we create a modernized workforce before the tidal wave hits?

By Judy West

*"When I went to U-Haul to apply for a job there was no application. You have to fill out the application on the computer. I was doomed from the start," said a participant in one of the Digital Mission Collaborative's computer training programs.*

Computer literacy has become a basic pre-requisite for nearly all employment in our new economy, and most of the promising new opportunities for young people are clearly computer related. Yet as we know, access to computers and adequate training is not readily available to everyone in the Mission the way it is in wealthy homes in the heart of the Silicon Valley suburbs. Poverty, coupled with an English language barrier broadens the Digital Divide between the haves and the have-nots, between the can and the-cannot; cannot work, cannot communicate, cannot participate.

In San Francisco things are changing so fast that huge sectors of our population are not only being left behind economically but are increasingly being ejected altogether from the ecosystem.

A seemingly endless number of companies are moving to the City, primarily in South of Market and Potrero Nuevo (the industrial areas of northeast Mission and lower Potrero Hill). But there are not enough skilled people for the jobs they create, so they recruit from elsewhere. All those new implants need a place to live, which then exacerbates the demand on existing housing, making it increasingly difficult for low-income people to stay in the City even if their employers can still remain.

Nightmarish traffic congestion comes with the increased population density. Suddenly, transportation issues leap to the forefront of public debates. The dot.commies can afford to drive cars everywhere and pay hundreds of dollars per month for parking spaces, while the rest of us are faced without any satisfactory alternatives. A friend of mine waited a full hour for the 27 Bryant bus the other day enroute to his magic gig then finally gave up because it never came! This is not fair.

Adding to the Digital Divide is the perception that it is not hip to be a computer "geek" in the established Mission community. One Internet company changing that perception is Listen.com located at 16th and Potrero, which pays motivated young people right out of high school \$30,000 per year to write music reviews that can be downloaded off their Internet site. At the outdoor cafe (Il Pirata) across the street, I often over-hear supervisors working with young employees to sharpen their grammar skills.

Music and movie careers are no longer under the exclusive domain of mega corporations, but these careers are not readily available to the existing computer illiterate population of the Mission either.

### Two schools of thought

Needless to say, we cannot depend on the market alone to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to participate in the new economy. Adjusting to such a dramatic shift in our world order will be difficult, with a myriad of issues needing to be addressed all at once; increased population density, skyrocketing rents, unequal access to technology and training, greed and excess, loss of culture... need I go on? And as we might expect, two very opposite approaches are currently underway in the Mission.

Many groups are organizing to try to restrict the space available for both the Internet and information-based businesses moving into the area, as well as restrict the upscale loft housing targeted to the new implants. This approach is being taken by the traditional slow-growth and anti-gentrification advocates (under various names) and is generally opposed by the Mayor and the big money interests.

Building government subsidized projects instead, both housing and commercial, is clearly part of the solution but is also slow and very expensive and will not keep pace with current displacement created by the market economy.

Unfortunately, restricting the creation of new space in a strong economy typically results in increased demand and rising prices for the remaining space available. Requiring new employers to hire a percentage of people who live in the neighborhood could create even more incentives for new implants to displace existing residents. There are no easy answers or quick solutions.

### Bridle the Tsunami

Another approach being taken by groups like the Digital Mission Collaborative (DMC) is focused at bringing the traditionally low-income population of the Mission up to the new economy so they can participate rather than fight against the tidal wave.

DMC is made up of Arriba Juntos, Bay Area Video Coalition, City College's Mission Campus and the Mission Hiring Hall, with a purpose of "expanding computer and new media job opportunities for low income Mission residents through the creation of workforce development programs."

Education is clearly the tried and true method by which to create economic equality. But this is no simple task today when technology becomes obsolete every couple of years.

Recently, DMC commissioned a

study conducted by a Berkeley research team to assess employment opportunities and requirements of information and multi-media occupations, as well as training needs of the low income population in the Mission. Their findings present both opportunities and formidable obstacles for the existing workforce.

The traditional careers that provided job security, clear promotion ladders and the potential for life-long employment, are fading into the past, as large companies are being replaced by complex networks where subcontracting amongst smaller and more focused firms is common.

This means that employees need to be more independent, self-motivated, and flexible. The research found that the central qualification for entry level employment in the new industry is *demonstrable* digital media skills (i.e. portfolios of completed work), rather than college degrees. However, because the technology changes so quickly, potential employees also need to demonstrate motivation and the ability to learn, as well as communication skills and teamwork. These are skills are more difficult to obtain in traditional education programs, which were also seen in the study as unable to keep up with the changing pace of the technology.

Closer links to the actual employers, such as internships and temporary employment, were found to be crucial in helping the local population "get a foot in the door."

This is where the DMC should be able to provide a unique service. They recently secured a prominent space off the courtyard of the proposed Bryant Square Project (a full city block of high tech office and retail space, and lofts, proposed at 20th and Bryant), scheduled for a public Planning Commission hearing April 13. Developers are offering the space to DMC for "nearly free."

#### TILT-ed

Another training organization attempting to bridge the Digital Divide in a more creative way is Teaching Intermedia Literacy Tools (TILT). Currently located at ATA (Artist Television Access) on Valencia Street, TILT's media education operation will soon be moving into the Goodman 2 building on the North Slope of Potrero Hill.

TILT works within schools and community organizations, teaching the fundamentals of movie-making through hands-on experience, while providing students with multimedia tools to promote change in their own communities.

TILT was responsible for the first multimedia presentation at Yerba Buena

Center's new ZEUM Project. Teen-age students from that project are now enthusiastically teaching multimedia at middle schools across the City. "Empowerment through media" is the goal says Lise Swenson, Executive Director of TILT. Also central to TILT's mission is encouraging the already media literate to become teachers and advocates of media literacy.

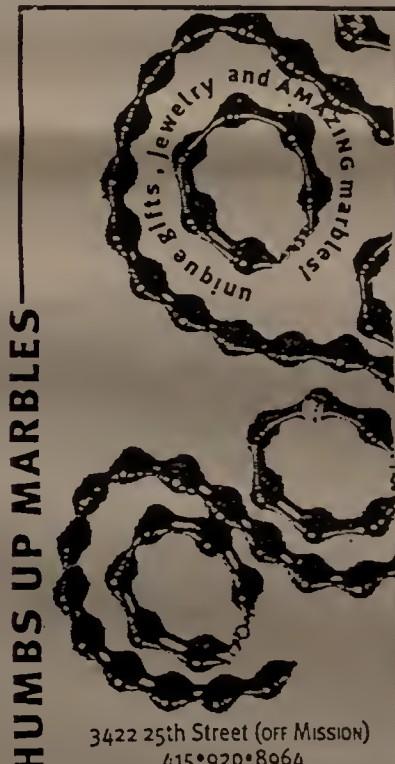
Rene Garcia, Administrative Director at TILT, described teaching as a powerful way for experienced "techies" to participate and be part of their new communities.

#### Do we need a shakeup?

There are no easy answers to lessening the negative impacts of such a substantial and rapid change to our economic structure. One thing for sure, education is the tried and true method of increasing the quality of life of the poor and disadvantaged. If the local Mission community is to be included in this economy it will require a real commitment on the part of the new companies and the people who work there to take the extra time and trouble to create the bridges.

There are a few reasons to be optimistic. The young people in control of this industry are more color blind than their parents were. They have no investment in the old hierarchies of the corporate world. But we cannot expect them to wait around for Mission residents to catch up, and it is foolish to think there is any turning back now -short of a good earthquake that is!

For more information about the Digital Mission Collaborative, call Arriba Juntos at (415) 487-3240.



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A nasty incident on 16th Street leads to civil suit and accusations of racism. Charges and countercharges fly about a 1997 bar brawl.

By Victor Miller

In these times of demographic upheaval in the Mission, tensions run high between longtime working class and Latino residents on the one hand and those recently arrived who are in the process of establishing homes and businesses.

Last month a flyer, 'Tardeada to Support Lawsuit Against Racismo en El Barrio', was circulated in the neighborhood, adding fuel to that fire. The flyer was in reference to an incident that occurred on the night of January 18, 1997 that is now the subject of a civil suit.

The plaintiffs in the case, four Latino men, claim Pete Glikshtern owner of Liquid, a 16th Street night spot, ejected two of them, Fredy Parra and Baltazar Fernandez, from his establishment, telling them he didn't want "any fucking Mexican's in his bar." Glikshtern claims he made no racial remarks and ejected only Parra who he believed to be a local drug dealer. (Enrique Ramirez, attorney for Fredy Parra and the other plaintiffs, said Parra is not a drug dealer and has no criminal record.)

Glikshtern also supposedly followed Fernandez out of the bar and held him at gunpoint across the street from Liquid, while Parra ran to his brother's home a block away to call the police. Shortly thereafter, around midnight, Parra returned to the bar with his friend Jorge Sosa and his brother Pablo Parra. The Parras and Sosa claim Glikshtern attacked them outside the bar when they asked what had happened to Fernandez.

Glikshtern says the three started a fight in which, out numbered three to one, he defended himself with a crow bar he kept at Liquid for remodeling work. In the melee, Glikshtern hit Fredy Parra and Sosa on the head with the crowbar and knocked them to the ground. Pablo Parra, also hit, fled.

When the police arrived on the scene Glikshtern was arrested for assaulting the Parras and Sosa and for possession of a small amount of marijuana. Sosa and Fredy Parra were taken by ambulance to Mission Emergency, treated for head wounds, and released. The District Attorney's office determined that Glikshtern had acted in self-defense and all charges against him were eventually dropped.

It was an unpleasant bit of urban brawling that, without the racial overtones, would have soon faded from memory but a year later, one day before their time limit to appeal would have expired, the Parras, Sosa and Fernandez filed a civil action against Glikshtern for assault and battery, defamation and violation of civil rights under the Unruh Act (denial of access to a public place based on ancestry). They are also asking for punitive damages.

The case is still inching its way through the legal system.

### A closer look

The fundraiser publicized by the flyer and a posting ("Latino residents sue racist bar owner") to a local e-mail list were intended to raise not only money but also public support for the four plaintiffs before trial begins this month. The *tardeada* drew about 20 people. These are very serious charges to be circulated in a community highly sensitized to the issue of racism and since the plaintiffs have chosen to put their case before the public, a closer look at the whole affair is called for.

Glikshtern's story is fairly simple: "I threw this guy out and he came back with his friends to kick my ass." Two eyewitness accounts, by Chris Pitts, a bartender at Liquid at the time and David Shawn, a customer at the bar, both support Glikshtern's contention that he defended himself when he was assaulted by three people, one using a belt with a large buckle as weapon.

Only Fredy Parra and Fernandez claim to have heard Glikshtern make the racist remarks, which are essential to their civil rights suit. Glikshtern not only denies making the statements but also has gathered testimonials to his good character from a number of Latino business owners, including Willie Vigil of Puerto Alegre, Se Padilla of Club 181 and Jose Najar of the Andora Inn. (Glikshtern succeeded Najar as president of Mission Merchants).

Latino music continues to be part of Liquid's venue. In an e-mail defense of Glikshtern, Louis Orozco stated he and his business partner Jose Mineros have hosted events at liquid on three separate occasions at which "the clientele was all Latino." Orozco also points out; "The night of [the] incident Liquid was hosting a Salsa party clearly targeted to a Latin clientele."

According to Parra and Fernandez, Glikshtern dragged Fernandez across 16th Street to his car, managed to unlock the trunk, pull out a gun, and menace both of them with it. Despite the fact this occurred on a Saturday night in a very hopping club district, there are no witnesses to this event. The police did not recover a gun at the scene.

Fredy Parra claims he went to his brother's home and called the police to report Glikshtern was holding a gun on Fernandez. But there is no record of a call to the police from Parra on that night. In their version of what happened next, Sosa and the Parras went to the bar out of concern for Fernandez' well being and were all viciously attacked by Glikshtern.

There is a 911 record of two calls made, a few minutes apart, from Liquid Bar. The first call reported the bar manager was being threatened with violence by three Latin males, and the second call reported that a fight had broken out with, "people are bleeding." Glikshtern, in

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deposition testimony, said he told Chris Pitts to call the police two times during the confrontation outside the bar.

#### An eyewitness account

David Shawn gave the most complete account of the fight. He told the police, "I came upon these three very drunk belligerent men [who] were pretty much harassing the owner of the bar, who was pretty much just telling them to calm down... They kept saying they had knives and guns and were going to kill everybody. So he [Glikshtern] reached behind and got a crow bar from behind the door or something and just kept it by his leg. So basically, we were, you know, just waiting for the police to show up and one of them takes off his belt and he had a big, you know, metal belt buckle and he took a swing at the owner of the bar. And I don't -I think he hit him or something. But it was at that point that, you know, all Hell broke loose."

"Shawn is a liar," said attorney Ramirez when asked about this account. Sosa, who is the one accused of using the belt never had a chance according to Ramirez. "What my client stated was he tried to take off his belt. He was hit and was trying to take off his belt while he was on the ground. When the police got there, it was still hanging from the loops and the police took it away."

When the police arrived neither Fredy Parra or Sosa mentioned Fernandez, concern for whose safety was, according to them, the sole reason they had returned to Liquid and, unarmed, confronted Glikshtern, who they say had a gun. In a subsequent interview by the police at Mission Emergency that evening, they still did not mention Fernandez. (Nor, as stated in the fundraising flyer, did they say that "two other individuals" assaulted them.)

Ramirez said the failure to say anything about Fernandez right away was due to the excitement of the moment. "What would you mention after being hit, and the cops come and ask what happened? [You'd say] 'This guy hit us.'" Sosa did tell the police at the scene that Glikshtern pulled a gun, even describing it as a .38 revolver, but said it was put to Fredy Parra's head.

When Inspector Kirk of the San Francisco Police Department interviewed all parties the following day, the story about Fernandez held at gunpoint finally came up. Glikshtern denies the whole gun incident with Fernandez ever happened. He says that to his knowledge, Fernandez was never even in the bar. Fernandez told Kirk that Glikshtern had pulled a gun on him but released him and he simply walked away.

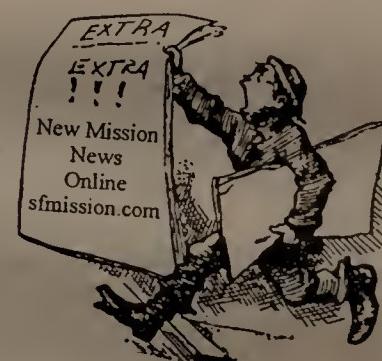
#### A day in court delayed

Glikshtern's attorney, Glen Summers, said the case has dragged on for so long because Ramirez waited until the last possible day to file, when according to Summers, he was sure Glikshtern would not be able to file a counter claim on time. Asked about the timing of the suit, Ramirez said, "That has nothing to do with anything." Summers called the case "completely frivolous," "BS and sanctionable."

Ramirez insists Glikshtern acted wrongly and took the law into his own hands, "If he was concerned about his safety he should have just gone inside the bar and waited for the police to come."

In 1999 an independent arbitrator heard from both sides. The plaintiffs asked for \$400,000 but were awarded just \$5,000, a typical nuisance judgment, which they declined. Summers regards this as vindication of his client and points out that the arbitrator did not even hear the testimony of the two witnesses.

From available documentation, police reports, deposition testimony and eyewitness accounts it is obvious what occurred that night three years ago differs considerably from the inflammatory version of events put forward in the flyers and e-mail sent out last month. It is a version that will unfortunately be accepted uncritically by those predisposed to seeing the world through a particular social and economic perspective into which all situations must fit.



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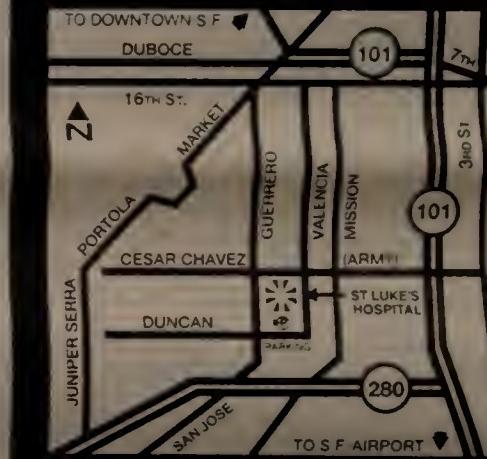
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Come On In!

# How the Mission voted

by Victor Miller

The Mission vote in the March election shows once again that the district is a very progressive neighborhood, but with a solid clump of conservative grumpiness.

Proposition F, the reparations program for Hunters Point that lost decisively city wide, passed only in neighborhoods with large African American voting blocks and in the Mission where it received more votes than from any other neighborhood, and twice as many votes than it received from Bayview/Hunters Point. Success in these areas means San Francisco politicos have not seen the last of the measure's sponsor, Carlos Petroni, the checkered demon of the ballot.

Mission voters by large margins rejected all Law and order issues, ranging from stiffer murder sentences to the seemingly benign crime lab. Especially repugnant to the neighborhood electorate was state Proposition 21, a draconian attack on youth. It lost in the Mission by almost 3 to 1. An equally distasteful attack on poor people, Proposition E, calling for huge cuts in general assistance cash payments, was also soundly defeated in the Mission.

It should be noted however that both scape-goating measures found a numerically identical core of support among Mission voters. Prop. E received 3,413 Mission votes and Prop. 21 got 3,566 in the Mission. This was considerably more support than would have been expected from the ultra-progressive voting record of previous elections. It may reflect the more conservative and less sophisticated outlook of the growing number of dot-com-

mies, looking for quick fix solutions for problems like "gang bangers" and "bums," who are seen as threats to car stereos and real estate values.

A third measure targeting a particular group, State Proposition 22 (a ban on same sex marriage), was easily defeated in the Mission by a 4 to 1 margin. It passed by only a handful of votes in Bayview/Hunters Point and Visitation Valley; lost in the Sunset by just two votes, and passed by a thousand votes in the city's most redneck district, the Excelsior.

The Academy of Sciences bond measure (Proposition B) got a majority of the Mission votes, but not the 2/3 required. Two other public park/recreation measures, A & C, passed the 2/3 mark by thousands of votes. The Academy's poor showing here reflects the disgruntlement of the Mission's activist bicycle community. The Academy has long opposed the Sunday closure of parts of Golden Gate Park to automobiles and this has put it at odds with the handlebar huggers.

The family oriented values of the Mission were reflected in the vote on State Proposition 26, which would have made school funding proposals much easier to pass; it won here by a four-to-one margin, where it had the second highest vote total in the city.

In overall turnout, the Mission (at 44.1%) lagged slightly behind the city average (44.9%), but was above other neighborhoods with significant numbers of low income and/or minority populations who traditionally do not vote in large numbers. The turnout in Bayview/Hunters Point was 30.7% and 40% in Chinatown.

Election March 3, 2000 - Mission District Statistics		
Registered Voters	Turnout	Turnout Percentage
31,117	13,734	44.1%

How the Mission Voted March 3, 2000		Yes	No
CITY PROPOSITIONS	A - Recreation & Park Bonds	10528	1623
B - Academy of Sciences Bond	7283	4708	
C - Open Space Fund	9217	2142	
D - Supervisors Benefits	7534	4052	
E - Public Assistance Benefits	3413	8417	
F - Bayview/Hunters Point Reparations	6331	5339	
STATE PROPOSITIONS	1A - Tribal Gaming	9768	2654
12 - Parks and Water	11481	1234	
13 - Drinking Water	11300	1352	
14 - Library Construction	10883	1752	
15 - Crime Labs	4910	6635	
16 - Veterans Homes	8943	2861	
17 - Lotteries and Raffles	8800	2912	
18 - Murder	4336	7493	
19 - Peace Officer	5291	6521	
20 - State Lottery	5123	6585	
21 - Juvenile Crime	3566	9196	
22 - Limit on Marriage	2549	10443	
23 - None of the Above	3691	7450	
25 - Campaign Finance	4474	7239	
26 - Local Majority Vote	9634	2447	
27 - Congressional Term Limits	3256	7981	
28 - Repeal Tabacco Tax	2319	10095	
29 - Indian Gaming	6745	4707	
30 - Insurance Lawsuits	7750	3799	
31 - Insurance Amendments	4346	6970	

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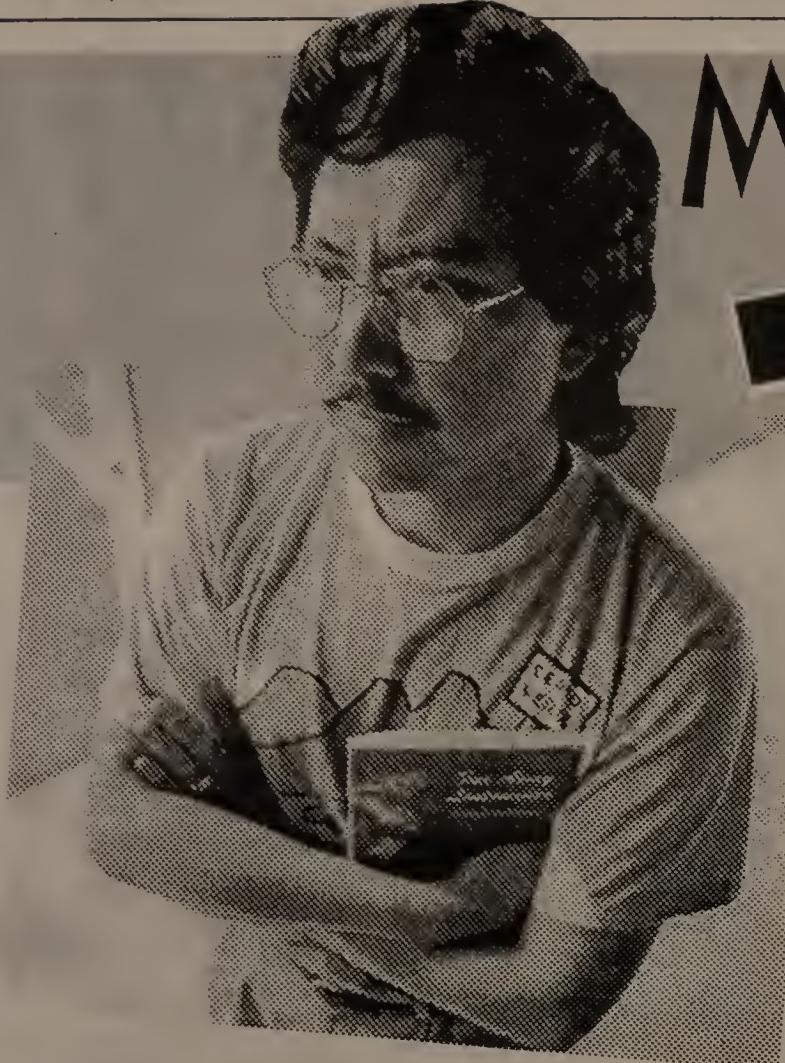
Ten years ago, kids were the most undercounted population in the Census, mainly because parents didn't fill in the forms right.



All your answers are confidential - that's the law. In the Census, there is no such thing as an illegal alien or too many people in a household. We all count! If you need help to fill out the Census or have lost your form, call 1-888- 325-7733.

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# MISSION DISTRICT CALENDAR



Rúriko Mata-Banegas, a mixed root published poet crossing over to prose will read works in English, Spanish and Ladino at Cafe Multicultural Valencia, **Friday, April 7, 9pm, 1109 Valencia @ 22nd, 824-7659.**

## 7 FRIDAY

**Afroverse** - A group reading by Will Alexander, Wanda Coleman, C. S. Giscombe, Erica Hunt and Giovanni Singleton. Opening event for *Continuity and Change in African American Writing*. Panel discussions on African American poetry and literature will continue through Sunday. New College Cultural Center, 766 Valencia, 6:30, free. For a full schedule Call 437-3454.

**Laughable art** - Reception for a group multi-media show of whimsical and amusing art at the always amusing City Art Cooperative Gallery. Show runs through May 7. City Art, 828 Valencia, 7pm. Call 864-4031.

**Satan's School for Painters** - Reception for artists who claim the devil made them do it with

music by two bands that are noisy as Hell: *the Diablo Show*. Balazo Mission Badlands Gallery, 2811 Mission, 8pm, \$2 at the door. Call 920-0896.

**Teutonic tunes** - The Berkeley Lyric Opera orchestra performs works by Wagner and Brahms, St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, 3281 16th St. @ Dolores, 8pm, \$15. Call 843-5781.

## 8 SATURDAY

**Boxtales folk tales for young folk** - Boxtales performance group presents *Mitos y Cuentos*, Maya, Aztec and Mexican stories, with music, masks and group participation. Randall Junior Museum, 199 Museum Way, 1pm, free. Call 554-9600.

**Iraq 'n roll** - The Arabic Women's Association

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presents a night of music and song from Iraq. Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission, \$10. Call 821-1155.

**Performance tunes** - Toychestra, an all woman toy instrument orchestra: pathological, operatic, lounge music by Negress Godiva and Sheer Frost, 17 women on electric guitars and nail polish bottles should be more than enough to float your boat. The LAB, 2984 16th Street, 9pm, \$5-10. Call 864-8855.

## 9

### SUNDAY

**Putting your breast foot forward** - Ann Blumenthal and Dancers premieres *Keeping a Breast of Things*, a tribute to one of life's anatomical wonders - to both of them actually. Also on the program, *Constantly Moving*, "created in the spirit of motherhood." ODC Theater, 3153 17th street, 6pm, \$15. Call 863-9834

**It's good to be the King or the Queen** - Carnaval season kicks off with the always lively King and Queen contest at Roccapulco, 3140 Mission Street, 7pm, \$5. Call 826-1401.

## 10

### MONDAY

**Intercession for Intersection** - Sweatshop: an all star cast including Lady Sergio, e-mael, Lady Base, and Ren the Vinyl Archaeologist do various entertaining things to raise money for Intersection for the Arts. The Elbo Room, 647 Valencia, 8:30pm, \$5-10. Call 626-2787.

## 11

### TUESDAY

**No old chestnuts** - The always atmospheric Keane's 3300 Club presents an evening of poetry with Glen Chestnut followed by the much dreaded 'Open Mic' and accompanied by the much sought after free food. Keane's, 3300 Mission, 7pm, free. Call 826-6886.

## 12

### WEDNESDAY

**Goodwill installing** - Opening reception for Conrad Atkinson's installation made up of cocktail suits and dresses. Press material says it "directly dialogues" with local thrift stores, meaning he bought the stuff there. Free eats are always a possibility at these things. Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia, 6pm, free. Call 626-2787.

**Chucky's cheesecake** (plus blood, gore, bondage, S&M and the truly bizarre) - Shock shutterbugger Charles Gatewood gives a slide show of images from his new book of photographs. Modern Times Books, 888 Valencia, 7:30pm, free.

## 13

### THURSDAY

**Born to lose** - the folks from AK press celebrate the republication of *You Just Can't Win*, the autobiography of the hobo anti-hero of turn of the (19th) century underworld, Jack Black. Michael Disend reads and celebrity anarchists do their smash-the-state thing. Modern Times Books, 888 Valencia, 7:30pm, free. Call 282-9246.

## 14

### FRIDAY

**Come out; come out, wherever you are!** - Lisa DeHass explores the multigenerational aspects of queerness as well as the interpersonal angst caused by death, sex changes and coming out in her latest theatrical work *Study*. Luna Sea Women's Performance Project, 2940 16th Street Room \$10-15 Also 4/15

**Have a cup of Joe (Hill)** - The Anarchist Café, a floating opera of politics, performance and conversational athletics surfaces again this time at 225 Potrero. Dinner at 6pm, entertainment at 7pm, \$5. A drug and booze free event to benefit the Anarchist Book Fair and Food Not Bombs. Call 675-9928.

**Now that's fly** - Dance Brigade with Dancers Group Theater presents *SkyDancers...Women Who Fly Through the Air*: women who hang, dangle, swing and loop de loop with trapeze, bungee, ropes and arcane apparatus. Dance Mission Theater, 3316 24th Street, 8pm, \$15-17. Call 826-4401. Also on 4/15 & 16 and 4/21-23.

## 15

### SATURDAY

**Keep on your toes** - Internationally known ballerina Evelyn Cisneros gives a workshop for children, ages 8-14. Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission Street, 11am - 12:30pm, free. Call 821-1155.

**Wordsmithing for young whippersnappers** - Bilingual poetry reading and writing get-together, with games and snacks. Happens the third Saturday of each month at Modern Times Books, 888 Valencia, 1-2:00pm, free. Call 282-9246.

**Bookworms of the world unite!** - The fifth annual Bay Area Anarchist Book Fair will feature lots of books and some state-stompin' oratory by Utah Phillips, Christian Parenti, Nestor Makhno, Peter Plate and others. SF County Fair Building, Lincoln Way & 9th Ave., 10am - 6pm. Call 861-7609.

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**17****MONDAY**

**Doc's rocks** - Headin' for divahood songstress Hannah Marcus [Dermerol, Vampire Snowman] shakes up the barflies and loungers at Doc's Clock, 2575 Mission, 9pm, free. Check out her website at [www.hannahmarcus.com](http://www.hannahmarcus.com).

**18****TUESDAY**

**World weary** - The Gray Panthers sponsor *Whose World Is It*, an Earth Day symposium addressing the issues of global warming, genetically modified food, municipalization of utilities and youth power in the aftermath of Proposition 21. Unitarian Church, 1877 Franklin, 12:30pm, free. Call 552-8800.

**Nice poets read their stuff** - Poets Dan Bellerm, Molly Fisk and Priscilla Lee have all won all kinds of awards and been published in some really impressive journals unlike our local cafe trash-poets who are always borrowing money or getting in fights or drinking up all the booze at parties or just being trouble. Discussion follows reading. Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia, 8pm, \$5. Call 626-2787.

**19****WEDNESDAY**

**Global, global, toil and trouble** - Cross-border unionizing campaigns to resist the globalization whammy; The United Electrical Workers of America and the Federacion de Trabajo (Mexico) will be discussed by members of the UE-FAT Alliance. Modern Times Books 888 Valencia, 7:30pm, free. Call 282-9246.

**20****THURSDAY**

**Cyberpols vs. Microcreeps** - Michael Perelman reads from his book *Class Warfare* in the Information Age. Perelman argues, as many already suspect, the new infotech world will be exploitive, oppressive and controlled by unpleasant rich people. Modern Times Books, 888 Valencia Street, 7:30pm, free. Call 282-9246.

**21****FRIDAY**

**Now that's fly too** - See 4/14 (Were making this up as we go along) Bass player Peter Kowald and dancer Joachim Schröder perform *Suite for Multiple Attitudes*, an improvised jam session that examines personality and attitude. ODC Theater, 3153 17th street, 8pm, \$15. Call 863-9834. Also plays 4/22 & 4/23.

**eVICTED/Out of Line** - Dual reception for Albert Lujan's digital mural *eVICTED*, dealing with the dot-commies invasion of the Mission, and *Out of Line*, a group show of Chicano/Latino line art, including works by prisoners and graffiti artists. Poetry reading by Roberto Durán. Galeria de la Raza, 2857 24th street, 7pm, free. Call 826-8009.

**22****SATURDAY**

**Cut up a (Persian) rug** - The Shahrzad Dance Academy performs Persian dances. Mission Branch Library, 300 Bartlett, noon, free. Call 695-5090.

**Now heal this** - Free psychic healing fair for all you wounded souls. Psychic Horizons, 972 Valencia, 2pm. Call 643-8800.

**23****SUNDAY**

**Sisterhood is habit forming** - The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence celebrate Easter and their 21st anniversary with a race through the Castro. The Great Tricycle Race is open to

teams of two sharing a tricycle, go-cart or other kid pedal vehicle. Must be 21 years of age & up to participate. On Castro Street between 17th & 18th, noon to 5pm, free. Call 522-0220.

**24****MONDAY**

**Get on the ball** - Metronome has donated its facilities for an evening benefit dance! Teacher Hannah Cole and student Dean Bullock join AIDSride to raise money for AIDS research and education. 7-8pm: Beginning Salsa Class, 8-11pm Party with a special Professional Ballroom Show and raffle for those who make donations to support AIDSride. Metronome Ballroom, 1830 17th Street. Call 252-9000.

**25****TUESDAY**

**Commie and Coyote** - Poet/activist John Trundell (his FBI dossier ran 17,000 pages) and ex-Digger/current actor Peter Coyote yak it up about art and politics. Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia, 8pm, \$5-15. Call 626-2787. Trundell reads his poetry the following evening accompanied by guitarist Mark Stark at 8pm.

**26****WEDNESDAY**

**Why do you think they call it. ?** - Dope, a self described "post-industrial metal band" has been called in-your-face and raw. If what you need is something loud and raw in your face, this is the place to be. Also on the bill: Primer 55. Slims, 333 11th Street, 8pm, \$8. Call 522-0333.

**27****THURSDAY**

**Drink wine...see that girl...** - Gallery opening and performance. Visual artist Halstead Craig Hannah teams up with dancers Shona Curley, Jessica Fudim and Erika Shuch to create an evening of art and performance. Wine, cheese and viewing of Hannah's paintings based on photographs of the dancers in rehearsal, then venture into the theater for informal presentations of works-in-progress. Dancer's Group Studio Theater, 3221 22nd Street. Call 824-5044.

**28****FRIDAY**

**Danza Floricanto** - Portions of *Si, Se Puede*, based on the life of Cesar Chavez, Aztec ritual dance and salsa are part of the panorama of the Mexican experience performed by Danza Floricanto, an award winning folk dance troupe from Los Angeles. Theater Artaud, 499 Alabama, 8pm, \$15. Also plays 4/29. Call 621-7797.

**29****SATURDAY**

**Get in touch with your inner critter** - Volunteer orientation workshops for those wishing to be cat socializers, dog walkers, or fill any of the other four footed friendly positions at the SPCA. SPCA Learning Center, 243 Alabama, 10am- 2pm. Call 554-3087.

**Diop happening** - Memorial film festival celebrating the life and works of Djibril Diop Mambety. Cocktail reception with Senegalese food, music, and guest speakers followed by a series of three films by the world famous Senegalese director (80% of all proceeds go directly to Yadikon, a non-profit organization founded by Diop, dedicated to the welfare of Senegalese street children). Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission Street, 5pm, \$30. Call 821-1155.

**30****SUNDAY**

**On your toes** - Internationally known ballerina Evelyn Cisneros will teach a special ballet workshop for kids ages 6-14. Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission Street, 11am, free. Call 821-1155.

**ONGOING THEATER**

**The People's Violin** - a non-comedic piece from Charlie Varon who plays 20 characters in this father/son self discovery work. Shows Thursday through Saturday; runs through 4/15. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia. Call 826-5750.

**Hoodwink** - Queer, brown, comedy by Latin Hustle (queer, brown, comedians). Runs through 4/15, \$12-20. Theater Rhinoceros, 2926 16th Street. Call 861-5079 for times.

**Sin** - Traffic-copter woman has a close encounter with the seven deadly ones following the Loma Prieta shake up. Shows 4/14-16, 4/21-23, and 4/27-30; Fridays & Saturdays, 8:30pm; Sundays 7:30pm, \$10-15. Theater Rhinoceros, 2926 16th Street. Call 861-5079.

**Megacities (film)** - Documentary on life in the big cities (Bombay, New York, Moscow, Mexico City) on the eve of the new millennium. Shows 4/7 through 4/14; 6, 8, and 10pm; Wed. matinee at 2pm. Roxie Cinema, 3117 16th Street. Call 863-1087.

**The Good Guys, An American Tragedy** - Drama, written in verse form, based on the true story of two Vietnamese-American brothers whose armed takeover of a Good Guys store left six people dead. Shows 4/13 through 4/22; Thursday - Sunday, 8pm, \$16-18. Theater Artaud, 499 Alabama Call 621-7797.

**The Balcony** - Jean Genet's classic play of whorehouse angst and rebellion. Previews 4/27 through 4/28; Runs 4/29 through 5/20; Thursday through Sunday, 7:30pm, \$15. Theater of Yugen/ Noh Space, 2840 Mariposa. Call 431-0727.

**ONGOING MONDAYS**

**The Monday Night Marsh** - Spoken word and performance art by various practitioners of such. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia, 8:30pm, \$6. Call 826-5750.

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**TUESDAYS**

**Soc it to me!** - The Socrates Café, a philosophical discussion group, meets from 7 to 9pm at Cafe Espresso Bravo, 647 Valencia @ 18th, 7-9pm e-mail [socratescafe@yahoo.com](mailto:socratescafe@yahoo.com).

**WEDNESDAYS**

**Salsa, flamenco, DJ** - A full evening with same sex salsa class at 6:30pm, free, followed by live Flamenco at 8pm (sharp), \$8, and then DJ Ron with Latin House, R&B and funk at 10pm, no cover. El Rio, 3158 Mission Street. Call 282-3325.

**THURSDAYS**

**Queer film and discussion night** - 4/13 *The Cockettes*, 4/20 *Forbidden Love: The Unashamed stories of lesbian Lives*, 4/27 *Viva 16*. New College Theater, 777 Valencia, 7:30pm, free. E-mail .

**No cover, live Bluegrass** - 4/13 High Country, 4/20 Jim Nunnally & Dix Bruce, 4/20 jam session open to all string players. Atlas Café, 3049 20th, 4-7pm. Call 648-1047.

**Chicano film series** - 4/13 *The Trapeze Artist* plus *El Alambista*, 4/20 *Zoot Suit*, 4/27 *The Ballad of Gregorio Cortes*. Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission Street, 7pm, free. Call 821-1155.

**FRIDAYS**

**SF Games** - Play games such as Spades, Hearts, Scrabble and Acquire or bring your own game. Free and open to all. Cafe Commons, 3161 Mission, 7pm. Call 679-3678

**SATURDAYS**

**Family story time (Spanish & English)** - Programs include a short craft activity for the entire family. Mission Branch Library, 300 Bartlett @ 24th, 10:30am English, 12 noon Spanish, free. Call 695-5090.

**SUNDAYS**

**Live Salsa bands** - 4/9 Julio Bravo, 4/16 Danilo, 4/23 Orquesta America 4/30 Candela. El Rio 3158, Mission Street, Dance class 3:15pm, bands at 4pm, \$7. Call 643-3486.



Joe San.

**"Eggs on Parade"** April 15-22

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RECEPTION WITH THE ARTISTS • SAT. April 15, 4 to 6pm

**Other April Events**

7 to 9pm, Fri., April 7 • WOMEN'S POETRY READING

1 to 5pm, Sat. April 8 • EGG DECORATING WORKSHOP w/ Yvonne Browne. 7 to 9pm, Fri., April 14 • MEN'S POETRY READING, special guest Jorge Argueta 1 to 4pm, Sat., April 15 • EASTER PARTY & SALE for Easter or Mother's Day gifts. 4pm Artists Reception

7 to 9pm, Fr., April 28 • POETRY BY SFSU STUDENTS

1 to 6pm, Sat., April 29 • TAURUS BIRTHDAY PARTY w/cake, good es

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## Gordon's House of Valet Rage

story by [redacted] drawings by Gene

From the day Gordon's opened at the corner of Florida and Mariposa there has been valet parking and a back-up of luxury vehicles waiting to use it every night of the week. I don't know where they all come from but chef/ owner Gordon arrived with a following. Cars are parked all over the sidewalks, double and triple in the streets, and, all too often, on the private property of the building where I live across the street. Tuesday evening I came home in the pouring rain to find a big fat car in my off-street parking space. My car full to unload, I decided not to let it go again. I called out to the valet, "Do you know whose car this is?" "Yeah, it's mine" he said flatly. "So will you move it please, it's parked on private property." No response. I asked again for him to move the car. No response. I walked over and asked

**FLORIDA**

4/100

again. "I can park cars anywhere I want to," blurted out of him, "call the police and have it towed if you don't like it." I had had a bad day which left me short tempered, I admit, but this was not an acceptable response. I stepped inside Gordon's and complained to the maître d'. "Sorry, but the valet attendant is not our employee.

They are a separate business and there is nothing we can do about it," was the gentleman's response. "Then I want to

the  
valet  
is  
not  
our  
employee,  
Sorry.

Instead I prevented him from entering this other car. He went around to the passenger door and got in, so I slipped into the driver's side and sat down. The valet then jumped out and with the click of a button locked me in the car! I tried to honk the horn but everything was de-activated. He let me stew there for a few minutes but let me out when it appeared I might inflict damage on the luxury vehicle under his care.

I stormed back into the restaurant to be told I was not welcome there with my attitude-I don't blame them. Outside in the rain I blocked in the car in my spot with my car and wrote "DO NOT PARK HERE" in Crimson Red lipstick.

A manager waved me back to the restaurant and told me the valet would promptly move the vehicle. I gave her the riot act, which she did not deserve.

The valet moved the fat car with the red lipstick. In the morning my elderly Mazda looked like it had been molested by the fat car, since now it had red lipstick smeared all over it.

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AREA

speak to Gordon directly because this is not right, you must have some responsibility for this guy's actions." "I am sorry Gordon is in a meeting right now, can I take your name and have him call you when he's finished?" I marched past the reception area to where it looked like a

meeting room might

was swiftly

escorted

to the door.

Back on the

sidewalk, I

demanded

again that

the valet

move the

car from our property,

and I then got in his way as he

fancy

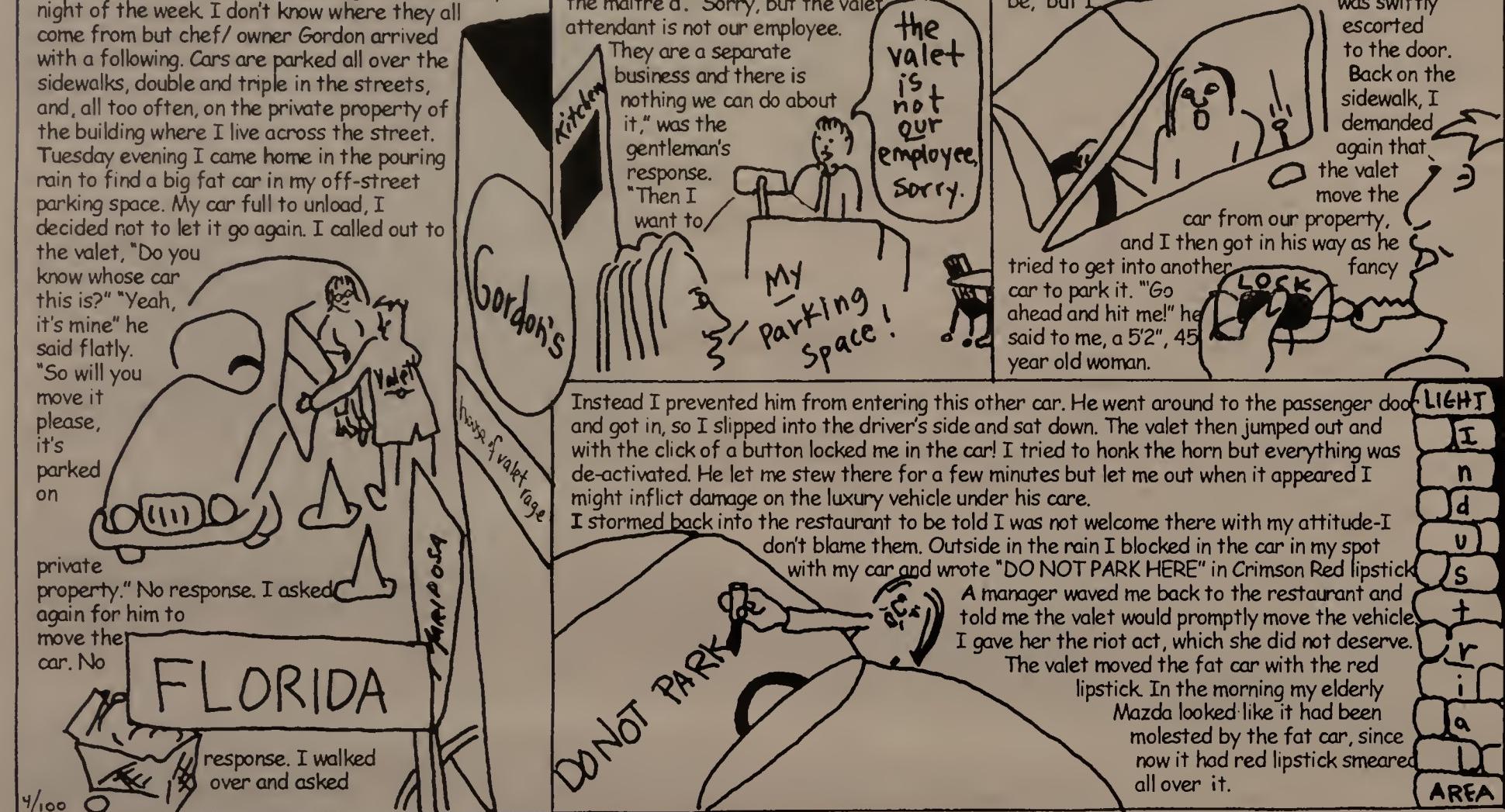
tried to get into another

car to park it. "Go

ahead and hit me!" he

said to me, a 5'2", 45

year old woman.



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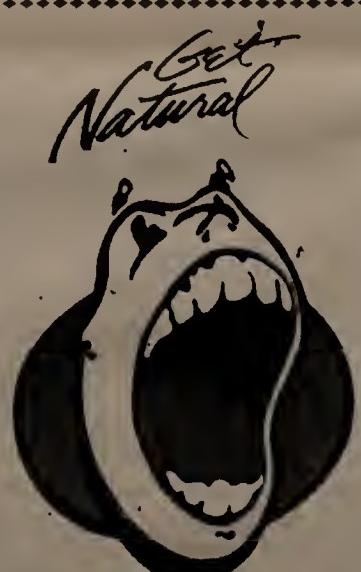
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# Silicon Satan



## Rent control must go!

For those of us who consider ourselves compassionate conservatives, it is quite heart-rending to see San Francisco's poor struggle to overcome the obstacles that are placed in their path. Not only must they attempt to maintain strength of character amidst the enervating luxury of the City's over-funded social programs and cruelly indulgent welfare system, but they are tragically hamstrung by one of the most harmful schemes in Big Government's shameful arsenal of regulation: rent control, which has engendered a sort of mental feudalism among San Francisco's lower orders, tying them to their squalid apartments, much like peasants are bound each to their little plot of land.

No group is more afflicted by this psychological bondage than the elderly. Yet every day, it seems, our local newspapers insist on running one or other variation on the same tired sob story: the little old lady on a fixed income, who has lived in a rent-controlled apartment for the last 30 years, and who is now facing eviction by a greedy landlord. As if such evictions were anything to sob about! What is sad is that some Depends-dumping, teeth-soaking, post-menopausal Methuselah has spent three drooling decades of dotage staring at the same four walls, just because she has a good deal on the rent. It is indeed a joyous occasion whenever a timely eviction empowers one of these wrinkly walker-wranglers to shake off the bonds of her \$300-a-month 3-bedroom serfdom, and discover exciting new horizons - in the form of the Bay Area's many excellent old age homes and residential hotels.

Sadly, though, rent control seems to have infected the faltering minds of San Francisco's senior citizenry with a uniquely selfish sense of entitlement - as I myself

discovered recently when I attempted to realize the full value of one of my real estate investments by invoking the Ellis Act on its superannuated tenants. I was quite taken aback by the degree of hatred and resentment that was leveled against me, simply for exercising my economic prerogatives. One toothless old geezer in particular seemed to believe that he had a right to live in his \$200-a-month studio in perpetuity, just because he was a veteran and had fought for our freedom on the beaches of Normandy - or some other nonsense. Try as I might, I could not convince that clueless old codger that, while his contribution was certainly appreciated, his apartment was now needed to provide housing for the veterans of a new campaign: the young warriors of the e-commerce revolution, who every day do battle to liberate the world from the time-wasting tyranny of the check-out line and the oppressive inconvenience of cash transactions.

It is, of course, quite shocking that the older generation would seek to deprive the younger of its patrimony in this way. Such, however, is the sorry legacy of rent control, which has created a selfish class of senile squatters, who, if they could, would doubtless take their low-rent apartments with them to the grave, rather than allow them to be converted into the designer condominiums so desperately needed by San Francisco's new digital elite. Luckily, though, there is a local leader with the decency and courage to stand up to these doddering dogs-in-the-manger: the Revcrend Amos Brown, whose call for a review of San Francisco's rent control laws shows that he understands what has become so clear to many of us. That we must finally say "no" to our self-seeking seniors and free the City's prime real estate once and for all from their arthritic grip.



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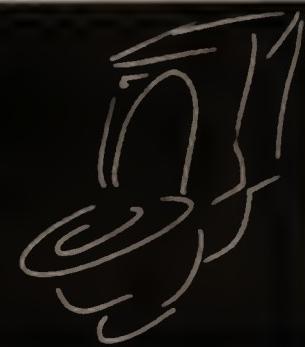
Family owned and operated in the Mission District for 22 years, Bob still buys fresh local fish early each morning. We cook fresh crab right on the premises, and are happy to clean, crack, butterfly, slice, or fillet your selections just the way you like them.

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# IN THE MISSION



Jimi Salcedo-Malo

## Hip-Hop on the Cultural Frontlines

From its roots, the music of hip-hop has always been a strong influence within the struggle of the oppressed. Those that came before this generation started a revolution in conscious music that today grows stronger as the movement becomes more organized.

Local hip-hop artists have traditionally maintained strong links between their music and the youth movement. Over the past few months there have been a number of hip-hop shows and rallies put on by the Third Eye Movement and a coalition of over 37 Bay Area organizations collectively known as Critical Resistance Youth Force.

Recently, Youth Force hosted a week of coordinated statewide actions called *Week of Rage*. The actions, in resistance to California's Proposition 21 and the growing criminalization of youth, kicked off with the "It's Not A Battle... It's War" hip-hop rally in Oakland. More than 1,700 people, mostly youth, attended the gathering, which featured some of the tightest artists in the struggle. The Coup, Dead Prez, Goapele, and the Prophets of Rage were some of the performers who shared the stage with grip of local speakers and performers.

Without a doubt, hip-hop exists because the culture is a struggle. "One thing that you'll find with a lot of communities of color is that you can't separate the day-to-day activities from the type of musical expression that the community has gravitated toward," says KMEL DJ

Davey D, "Hip-hop is a cultural expression."

We are building a major resistance on the cultural front lines, and seeing a growing revolutionary youth movement. "Hip-

hop is something that is part of the people, and it will be where the people go," explains the Coup's MC, Boots. "More conscious hip-hop will be produced as the movement grows."

The "It's Not A Battle... It's War" rally was important in terms of educating people about the recently approved anti-gang initiative (Prop 21), but it was also a show of unity between East and West Coasts, whose perceived differences have always been exploited by mainstream culture and media. "That coast shit is a way of dividing us up," says NYC MC Stic, who rolls with the group Dead Prez. "We all come from our respective homes around the world, we're one people, and everybody deserves the right to be free and self-determinant."

After Dead Prez's wrapped up the Oakland rally with their piece *Police State*, more than 300 youth marched over to the city jail where 50 civil rights leaders were being detained after having been arrested earlier that morning on acts of civil disobedience in resistance to Prop 21. The youth occupied the entrance of the jail for nearly two hours before the cops gave in and began releasing the activists.

Although voters passed Prop 21 in March, the youth movement has gained too much momentum to leave it at that. "We never said it was Proposition 21 in terms of the ballot box," notes Attorney Van Jones of the Ella Baker Center. "Since the beginning we said it was about Proposition 21 in terms of the street, it's about building a revolutionary youth movement."



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# We need your help to redesign the 16th Street Bart Plaza

Dear neighbors,

In response to long-standing community concerns about problems at the 16th Street BART Station, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) has awarded funds to BART and the City of San Francisco to carry out a community-based renovation and redesign of the station area plazas. The work will be based on the 16th Street BART Community Design Plan. On May 3, from 6 to 8pm, we are holding the first in a series of public meetings to update people about the project and get more community input on how to implement the redesign of the station.

The meeting will take place at Centro del Pueblo, 474 Valencia Street, in the second floor auditorium. The meeting room is ADA accessible. Childcare, light food and Spanish/English translation will be provided.

For those of you who were not able to attend any previous meetings or hear about them through the New Mission News, the 16th Street Community Design Plan resulted from a six month process in which over 100 residents, merchants, activists and public officials participated. The process was sponsored jointly by Mission Housing Development Corporation, The 16th Street Neighborhood Association, BART, MTC, SF County Transportation Authority, and Urban Ecology.

There were and are many different opinions about what is good or bad about the existing station, especially in regard to public safety. In general, the community plan is focused on making the plazas a place that everyone in the community can use. That means incorporating the needs of

young parents with children, seniors, homeless people, neighborhood merchants, and transit riders, as well as people using the plaza to catch some sun.

To accomplish this task, the Community Design Plan calls for increasing the amount of usable open space in the plaza, improving accessibility and visibility in the station and area, creating public art that connects the station to the surrounding community, and encouraging more public activities to take place in the plazas.

The Community Design Plan provides a general idea of how to accomplish these goals, but more specific decisions need to be made by the people most directly affected. At the community workshop, we will be providing more detailed information about the project as well as looking for more input on the issues listed above. In order to carry out all of the different elements in the Community Design Plan, the project will involve the groups listed above as well as local artists, the Mission Economic Development Association, and the SF Department of Public Works.

We are also looking for people that would be interested in serving on a Community Advisory Committee (CAC) to play a more long-term role in guiding the station area renovation. If you are interested in serving on the CAC or just want some more information on the community workshops, please get in touch with one of us at Mission Housing Development Corporation at (415) 864-6432.

Sincerely, Cynthia Martinez and Doug Shoemaker

## Miracle Mile Makers MISSION MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION



The next meeting of the Mission Merchants Association will be Thursday April 20 noon

**Pinxtos**

**557 Valencia**  
Our guests will be Stuart Sunshine of the Department of Parking and Transportation and Dave Snyder of the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition

All local merch. 's are urged to attend.

One of the best additions to Mission Street in recent years has been Martha & Bros. Coffee Company. Besides being a convenient place to buy whole beans, it's always been a nice sunny spot to hang out, read the paper and relax with a good cup of fresh brew and one of those extra rich but irresistible desserts. Now that their remodeling and expansion is finished, the place is even more comfortable and there's always an available table. The staff seems friendlier than ever.

Martha & Bros. is located at 2475 Mission Street and open Monday to Saturday 6am to 7pm and Sundays 7am to 6pm. Call 824-3489.

**TO JOIN MISSION MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION  
CALL 979-4171**

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**Miguel Covarrubias y la Danza Moderna – An Evening with Rocío Sagaón and José Benítez**

Meet Rocío Sagaón, dancer and second wife of Miguel Covarrubias, who will share an intimate portrait of Miguel and the world of modern dance in Mexico during the early 1950s. Rocío will be joined by filmmaker José Benítez who will present fascinating and rare footage of the ballet *Zapata*, featuring the work of Miguel and Rocío during their years with the Bellas Artes Ballet in Mexico City.

**Thursday, April 13, 2000**  
**7pm**  
**Fort Mason Center, Bldg. A**  
**Golden Gate Room**  
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Co-sponsored by Centro Cultural de México and

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#### Still cooling it in the hood

The tragically fatal fire at the Kings Hotel last October destroyed the Valencia Street ground floor storefront that Kings Refrigeration had occupied for thirty years. Proprietor, Martin Gomez has since relocated to 2793 16th Street, between Folsom and Harrison.

Gomez says he misses the old neighborhood a lot; the Folsom Street site offers less sun and virtually no pedestrian traffic, but he's happy to be back in business. Kings Refrigeration & Appliances can be reached at (415) 431-0255.

#### Nuevo Ramize Flowers

Supporters of Nuevo Ramize Flowers at 23rd and Shotwell Streets (which is pretty much the entire neighborhood) will be happy to know that the high profile law firm of Heller, Ehrman, White & McAuliffe will be joining the effort to keep the flower shop at its present location. [See New Mission News Dec 1998 and Nov 1998]

The Firm's Gus Gonzales and Margarita Guzmán have offered pro-bono representation to proprietress Carmen Ramirez in her upcoming Permit Appeals Commission status hearing scheduled for April 20 at 1:30pm, in the Commission Meeting room at City Hall. For more information, call (415) 285-6255.

#### You Go Boys and Girls! 2nd Annual Youth Poetry Slam Finals

WritersCorps will host the second annual San Francisco Youth Poetry Slam League Finals at SOMARTS, 934 Brannan, on April 8 at 4pm. The free event features the City's best youth poetry slammers, representing the Center for Young Women's Development, Mercy Services, Girls After School Academy, Everett and Phoenix Middle Schools, Ida B. Wells High School, Mission Girls and the Log Cabin Ranch. The poets will compete against one another for the opportunity to represent San Francisco in the national finals.

The Youth Poetry Slam League (YPSL) is one of the Nation's first organized efforts to bring competitive poetry slamming from classrooms and after-school centers to public forums. The intramural sports-style league is comprised of

youth-based teams, ages 12-19, from WritersCorps programs in San Francisco, New York, and Washington DC.

Poetry slams are judged Olympic style, using a point-scale of 1 through 10. Judges look for engaging performance and powerful writing. The winners of this YPSL tournament will compete May 20 against a team of renowned adult poets in Washington DC, including Irish-American poet Terrence Winch (winner of the American Book Award), Pulitzer Prizewinner (and perennial slam poet) Henry Taylor and performance poet Silvana Straw.

Last year, WritersCorps student and all-star participant, Natrice Spicer was given a full scholarship to Howard University after the school's Dean of Students discovered her talents at the slam. "Slamming gives kids a chance to express their emotions positively through writing and performance," said Janet Heller, Director of WritersCorps. "The YPSL is the academic equivalent of intramural sports—the teams 'train' by working hard on their pieces and then get to travel around the city competing with other teams. The strongest poets get to go to the All-Star Slam."

YPSL teams have been "training" at their schools and after-school sites and competing in preliminary slam events at Borders Books and Music since the beginning of the 1999/00 school year. Borders helped establish the WritersCorps' youth slam programs in 1995 when instructors began working with kids from some of the toughest neighborhoods in Washington DC to help them express thoughts and

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emotions through writing and performance poetry.

"Slamming" is performance poetry that highlights showmanship in sports-like competition. Already underway as adult performance art in metropolitan areas across the country, poetry slams proved to be the perfect instrument to keep kids interested in writing, performance and subsequently, in dealing with their emotions.

The San Francisco WritersCorps is administered by the San Francisco Arts Commission, founded in 1994, it utilizes the power of the written and spoken word to strengthen the development and potential of individuals and communities by providing established writers and teachers, mentors and resources for creative literary expression. WritersCorps offers creative expression as an alternative to violence, alcohol and drug abuse for people of virtually every race, ethnicity and age in the cities it serves. The organization has helped more than 12,000 people in some of America's most disadvantaged neighborhoods express an inner truth that previously lay dormant or denied.

*Information about WritersCorps or the 2nd Annual Poetry Slam All-Stars Tournament, call (415) 252-4655.*

#### **When Slamming's not Good: Callers to Mexico Continue to Say They Were "Slammed"**

AT&T is renewing its efforts to help Hispanic consumers avoid being victims of "slamming." In tele-talk, slamming is the fraudulent practice of switching consumers from their preferred long distance company without their consent and is a widespread practice.

According to the Federal Communications Commission, slamming is the number one consumer complaint. In the last few years, the FCC has been averaging more than 20,000 complaints per year, a 135% increase since 1995. Hispanic consumers, who have higher-than-average long distance usage, are twice as likely to be slammed, according to a 1997 national survey conducted on behalf of the National Council of La Raza, a Washington DC-based Hispanic advocacy organization.

In 1997, AT&T joined forces with NCLR to launch a national Spanish-language slamming awareness campaign. In 1998, AT&T established a slamming resolution center, 1-800-538-5345, to resolve any consumer slamming complaints involving AT&T.

"The best way to prevent our Spanish-speaking customers from being slammed is through awareness," said Maria Suarez, International Consumer Services Director for AT&T.

Slamming not only takes away the right of customers to use the service provider and calling plan of their choice,

but it also means that they must deal with the inconvenience of switching back to their desired long distance company and re-enrolling in their chosen calling plan. Besides that, it's just plain rude.

If you have been a victim of slamming, immediately contact your long distance carrier of choice and ask to be switched back. Then, contact the company that switched your long distance carrier without your consent and ask them to reimburse you for any excess charges incurred from their action. To speak to an AT&T Spanish-speaking customer service representative, Call 1-800-235-0900.

#### **Mini Med School: Health Sense from Health Science**

After a sold out session last fall, the UCSF Mini Medical School returns for a spring semester of classes for the general public. Best of all, there will be no homework, papers, or exams. Those who attend all six sessions will even receive an honorary mini-diploma.

Spring 2000 Mini Med-School will feature a series of six lectures on Wednesday evenings from April 5 through May 17 (no class on Passover), and will be held in Cole Hall from 7 to 9pm, with question-and answer sessions following each lecture.

#### Schedule of classes:

April 5 - Drugs, Genetics, Herbal Remedies and You: Caveat Acger (let the patient beware).

April 12 - Alternative/Complementary Therapies: Do They Work? Are They Safe?

April 26 - Physical Activity: Its Impact on Health and Disease.

May 3 - Aesthetic Dentistry: Good Reasons to Smile.

May 10 - Mysteries of Touch: Its Powerful Effect on Health and Development.

May 17 - Non-Prescription Products: How to Choose Them Wisely.

The series is open to anyone interested in learning more about the concepts and processes of human health and biology. Space is limited, and registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

All classes will be held on UCSF's main campus at 513 Parnassus Ave. For this special event only, parking is \$3 per session in the campus garage. The fee for the series is \$40; registration for individual classes cannot be accepted. Registration is by mail and requires your name, address, city, state and zip code plus daytime telephone number.

To register, send information and check, payable to UC Regents, to UCSF Mini Medical School, Public Affairs, Box 0462, San Francisco, CA, 94143. For additional information, call (415) 476-2557.



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**He who must not be named**

Editor,

I don't understand why you let the elitist 'Silicon Satan' continue writing a monthly column without using her/his name. If she/he is one of her/his 'role models of the community', why not use a true byline? Could it be that the hate spewed forth from the column requires anonymity? In the same sentence that he is crying about selfishness of the community for wanting a park for children, he is asking for a professional nine-hole golf course! Is there some hypocrisy here? Perhaps she/he should get together some private dot-com money and develop a golf course. If he/she were to attempt such a venture, he/she would certainly understand the hard work and effort that St. John's has put into making that park a reality.

In closing, I can only assume that this column, in an otherwise quality publication, is a tasteless attempt at parody or satire. Since the term Satan is part of the column, I have no qualms with quoting Jesus Christ, "the poor you will always have with you."

Sincerely, Ron Groshardt

**Sidewalk surfing**

Editor,

One of the greatest aspects of the Mission District ambiance is when you walk through the neighborhood on hot summer days and hit all the garage, yard and sidewalk sales. I have furnished several apartments and wardrobes by taking part

## Letters to the Editor

in this ritual over the last twenty years. Sometimes, I just like to browse and socialize. This is part of what creates a cool community: big C on communion, little c on commercialization.

I realize there is way more sidewalk in the Mission than garages or yards, but I'm getting tired of the (big C) Control freaks who are calling the (little c) cops out to issue citations to people holding occasional harmless sidewalk sales. I can understand a merchant not wanting some hustler-type setting up shop in front of their business to hawk 'new' merchandise. But in most cases, the 'offenders' are renters who borrow a few square feet of sidewalk in front of their buildings to weed the non-virtual home site of unneeded yet still usable stuff.

Don't the cops have better things to do, like chase gang-bangers, or something? And what about the Complaining Controllers -can't they come up with more useful ways to apply their energy?

I have a feeling that there are more of Us, who appreciate the casual sidewalk sales, than Them, who have (little) bugs up their (big) bu... well, anyway. We all can't live on Liberty Hill can we?

From the Barrio with love, Tio Yeye



Shady characters Majka &amp; Caplan

## On Sunday the joke's on Channel 29

By Mark A. Lemra

If you are looking for a good laugh, and have access to cable television, then *Sunday Night Blues* is your gig. The relatively new comedy series in the likes of *Kids in the Hall*, *Saturday Night Live* and *Monty Python*, *Sunday Night Blues* has emerged in the last few months to give San Franciscans a taste of homegrown humor.

*Sunday Night Blues* features sketch routines, skits, short comedic films, and character pieces created and performed by local artists. The group takes shots at everything from corporate America and sexuality to the entertainment industry, capturing the essence of life and showing viewers how to laugh at it. Recent shows have featured skits that mock casting calls, troubled relationships, and psychotherapists.

The show's producers, fellow Mission-ites David Majka and Barton Caplan, started the series back in 1999 after their band, Infrared, was a guest on another local independently produced cable show, *Someone's in the Kitchen with Gina*. The duo had such a great time that they decided to take their antics to the airwaves with their own show. "We've been doing this since last November and love every minute of it," says Majka. "The show has been ever expanding with more

personal resources. It's been like a train that just keeps going faster and faster."

Majka, originally from Gilbertville, Massachusetts, is a web designer and musician who also runs a recording studio. He films and edits each *Sunday Night Blues* episode. Caplan, originally from Atlanta, Georgia, is an actor whose film credits include *Lloyd*, with Tom Arnold, and *Martini Shot*, a festival film premiering later this Spring. Caplan also wrote the *Sunday Night Blues* theme song. Both producers write and perform their own skits. Other performers on the show are called the *Sunday Night Blues* Players, and are all local actors, musicians and friends of show creators.

Capan and Majka are currently developing corporate sponsorship for *Sunday Night Blues* and hope the show will have a nationwide broadcast in the near future. Majka said he'd like to "further deliver the goods" especially in the target cities of Seattle and Atlanta. For now, the show is strictly privately funded; "From our front pockets, as well as our back," said Majka.

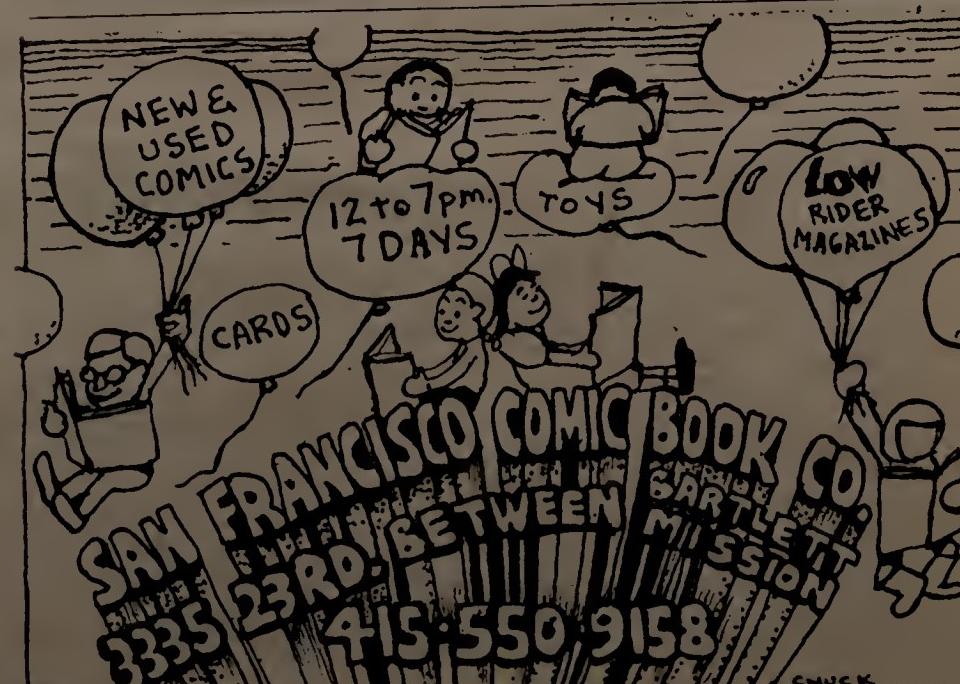
*Sunday Night Blues* can be seen on the first and third Sunday of each month on SF City Visions, cable Channel 29, at 8:30 pm. Although the show does not hold open auditions, Majka and Caplan welcome any enthusiastic contributions from their viewers. E-mail *Sunday Night Blues* at [sunday\\_night\\_blues@yahoo.com](mailto:sunday_night_blues@yahoo.com).

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# Health Matters



**Richard Pitt**

## Hepatitis B vaccine - should we do it?

The FDA approved the Hepatitis B vaccine for use over 10 years ago. It is now routinely given to newborn children and is mandatory in 42 states. Each year, approximately 200,000 people in the USA catch Hepatitis B and about 5,000 people die from it, according to the Centers for Disease Controls (CDC). People can contract hepatitis B by direct contact with the blood or bodily fluids of an infected person; for example, by having unprotected sex or sharing needles.

The highest risk of infection are therefore found in intravenous drug users, hemophiliacs, participating in unprotected sexual activity with many people, and people whose jobs involve contact with human blood. Babies can also catch the disease from an infected mother through childbirth.

Therefore, the risk of babies catching hepatitis B is very slight in comparison with the high risks categories mentioned.

However, there is now considerable debate about the importance and the safety of this vaccine. In a statement released on July 8, the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons (AAPS), representing more than 4,000 doctors, recommended an immediate moratorium on mandatory hepatitis B vaccine for children pending further research about possible side-effects.

They question the mandatory requirement for a vaccine that has questionable safety.

In 1998, according to a New York Times article, the French government suspended hepatitis B vaccinations in schoolchildren, citing fears that the vaccine was causing multiple sclerosis and other neurological disorders.

More recently, the National Vaccine Information Center (NVIC), a parent group based in Washington, stated that

between July 1, 1990 and October 31, 1998, in the USA, a total of 24,775 adverse events, including 439 deaths, allegedly linked to the vaccine were reported to the federal drug agency.

However, a spokesperson for the FDA downplayed these findings, stating that there could be many other reasons for the reported affects.

The issue recently became important in New Jersey as the State Assembly was looking to implement mandatory vaccination. Even though it was left off the legislative agenda, the Health Department began writing a rule requiring the vaccination-without allowing parents the option of refusing inoculation for their children. One state senator in New Jersey stated that "they are trying to treat the wrong people with this vaccine. They can't reach the adults through education, so this is their solution. I think it is a poor one."

In June 1999, Dr. Jane Orient, Executive Director of AAPS, testified before Congress and called for an immediate halt to the vaccine. "It is apparent that critical medical decisions for an entire generation of American children are being made in small committees whose members have incestuous ties with agencies that stand to gain power, or manufacturers that stand to gain enormous profits from the policy that is made."

Children younger than 14 are three times more likely to die or suffer adverse reactions after receiving hepatitis B vaccine than to catch the disease."

As this debate continues, more objective evidence may come to light about the rationale for the vaccine and the risks involved.

It is hoped that parents, the medical establishment, the CDC and others will look into this subject and be able to come to a clearer understanding of the risks involved.

# Library Lady



### Dear Library Lady:

I really enjoyed the Harry Potter books. Are there any other children's books I can read while I wait for the fourth installment?

Adult Who's Wild About Harry

### Dear Wild Adult:

You're not the only one who loves Harry! People of all ages feel exactly the same way. One of the best things about the Harry Potter phenomenon is that it has brought attention to children's literature, which is just as rich as adult and teen literature. The library even owns the first two books in Spanish.

Because there has been such a demand for Harry Potter books, the San Francisco Public Library's Office of Children and Youth Services developed a "While You Are Waiting for the Next Harry Potter..." bookmark which lists books similar to them.

Although the Harry Potter books are action-packed fantasies, I feel that part of their appeal is the friendship between Harry and his friends. I personally enjoy it when secret unknowns previously withheld from the reader are finally divulged.

Here are some of my favorite children's books that also share some of these characteristics:

*The Giver* by Lois Lowry takes place in a world where everyone is assigned a profession during a special ceremony at age 12. Jonas is skipped-over during his ceremony but is later assigned to be "the Receiver." The Giver trains the Receiver to ultimately become the Giver, the keeper of memories - a responsibility so great that it must be endured alone.

In E.L. Konigsburg's *The View from*

Saturday, the sixth grade academic team works amazingly well together during secret Saturday meetings. But no one ever mentions the special something that must have brought the group together. Even the teacher who picked each of them to be on the academic team is unsure. Whatever it is that makes them click, is it enough to beat a 7th or eighth grade team and go to the state finals?

In Madeleine L'Engle's *A Wrinkle in Time*, Meg's father is away on business a lot and her little brother is a child prodigy. But when Mrs. Whatsit, Mrs. Who, and Mrs. Which all come out of thin air - literally - she begins an adventure through a "tesseract" (a wrinkle in time) that shows her how special her family really is.

Jerry Spinelli's *Maniac Magee* lived with his aunt and uncle until the day he started running. That first day he made four appearances where he accomplished the impossible. Oblivious to many of society's unspoken rules, Maniac Magee kept on running, accomplished many other amazing feats, and his legend grew. But how much is fact, and how much is fiction?

There are many other children's books that adults would enjoy reading. Ask your children's librarian to recommend some the next time you visit the library!

### LITERALLY APRIL

April is National Library Month and National Poetry Month. Also, the week of April 24 - 30 is National TV Turnoff Week and Reading Is Fun Week. Celebrate them all at the library!

You can send a question directly to Library Lady, c/o The New Mission News, 3288 21st Street, #202, San Francisco, CA 941110, or feel free to email her at [Librarylady@sfpl.lib.ca.us](mailto:Librarylady@sfpl.lib.ca.us).

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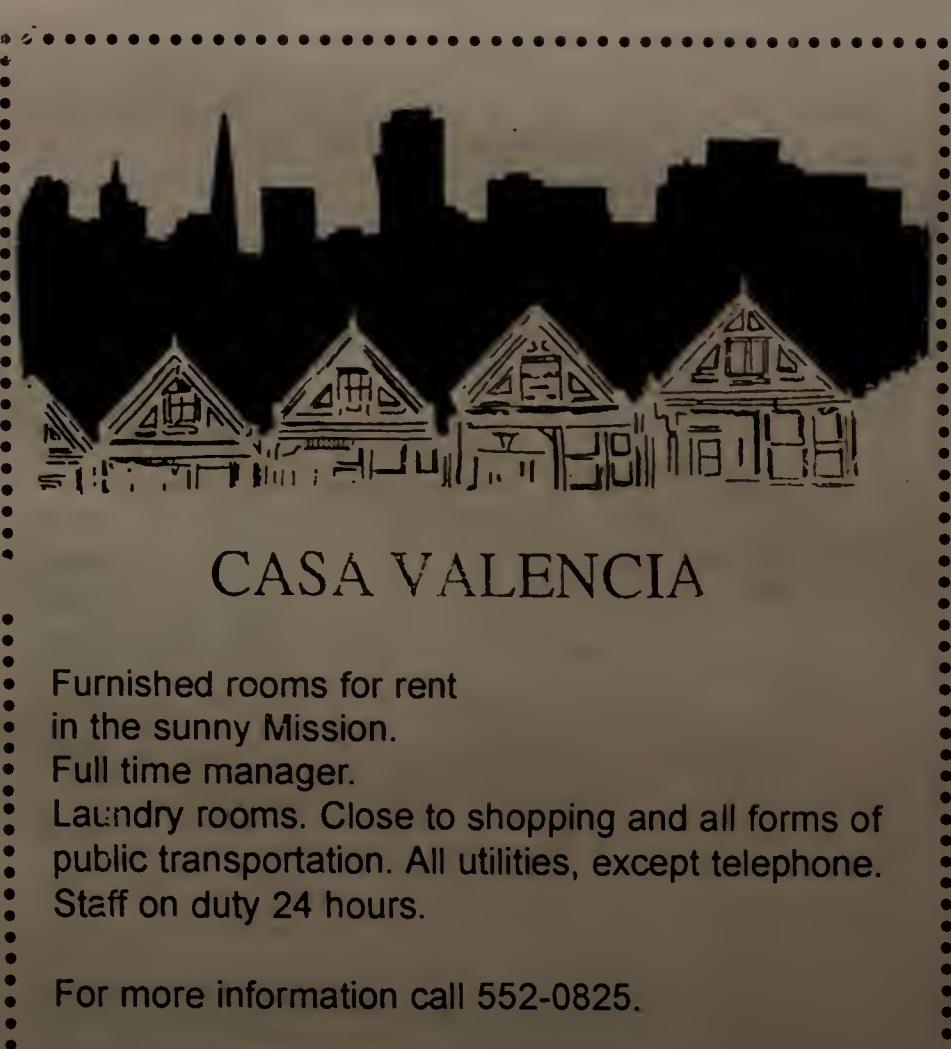
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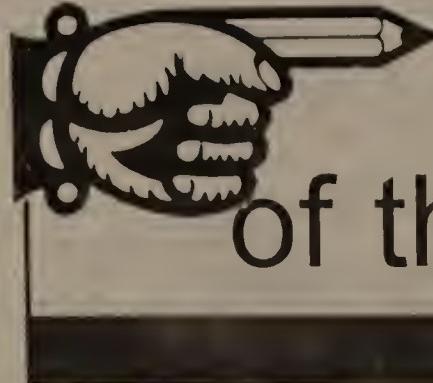
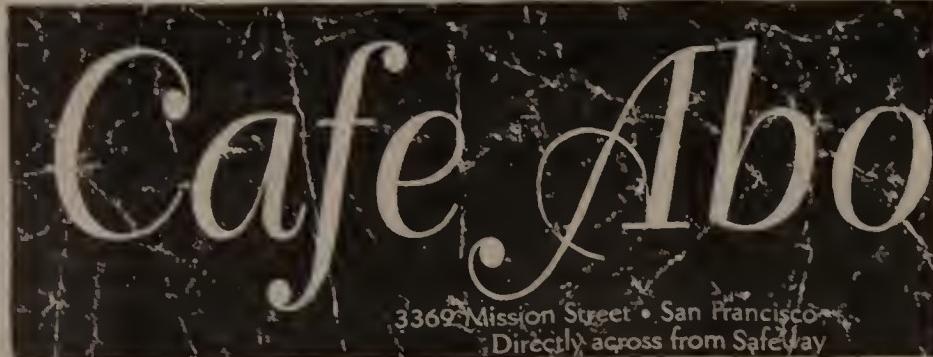
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# Poems of the Month

edited by La Huerfana

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Grandma,  
Her Saint Michael image-  
Hanging and longing on the brick pale wall.  
And cold and loneliness is color too.  
And the huge Indian elephant,  
that walks old like the heavy-hearted earth.  
And the clown laughing pink.

And the furious rain, ruthless indeed.  
And I said to you:  
Come with me to see the playful dolphins  
rejoice, There,  
Where the heavens fell, and once begun-  
And where the so blue silence  
reveals war.  
Y tu, cabizbaja e iracunda,  
me hablas del rio safiro y real esmeralda,  
asesniado ayer.  
Y yo te hablo de ojos negros-grandes,

claros y bellos.  
De niños de escarlata de mire  
serio y ponderante.

Del topacio bruto, luz de noche y  
de adivinos proscritos.  
Y de los narcisos y de las orquideas...  
Y de todas las flores que nacen  
y mueren ahora.  
Color, Color, Rome, Manhattan, London,  
Paris.  
Color you, color me and him and her.  
Y tus manos de fuego olientes a sexo  
exquisito.  
Y mis pies galanes de esclavo sabio y  
maldito.  
Y tus labios gruesos y de vino,  
poesia purpura, para mi hartarce  
y saciarne todo.  
And death and death and etemity.

Color. color. color. color.  
Color Somalia,  
Color Ethiopia, color  
Bangladesh.  
Color Pompeya, color la gloria militar.  
Eyes to eyes to faces, vestigios, legiones e  
imperios.  
Oh the virtue of blindness and this joy  
And gift of life.  
Color, color, Macedonia, Sumaria, Alejandria.  
Pearls, Diamonds, Satin, Velvet and Silk.

Rolando Carrillo © 2-14-00

### Destiny!

Walking the thin line  
Tripping over the same rocks  
Waking up with swollen eyes  
Drinking all night  
Bruised knees, sore arms  
Forever sleeping on the pavement

### Destiny!

Soaking rain  
Cardboard boxes  
Crippling pain traveling  
Through aching bones  
Cucarachas in your birthday cake  
Rats sleeping in your bed

### Destiny!

Distance I can't walk  
Mountain I can't climb  
Roses I can smell but can't touch  
Torrentes de oscuridad  
Living in the dark

### Destiny!

Sounds passing through my ears  
Songs playing on the mind  
Unfulfilled promises  
Broken hearts  
Wet dreams and fantasies  
It's all part of life

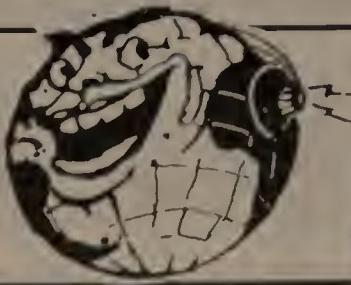
### Destiny!

Dealing with the cards dealt by God  
Choosing your own path  
Whiners don't advance  
Brave hearts survive  
The spirit never dies

Esteban Gómez © 2000

Send poetry submissions to  
La Huerfana c/o  
New Mission News,  
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# Round World Music Review



Robert Leaver



## Un Poquito Quema'o

From France comes a hot new recording by a man calling himself Sergeant Garcia. *Un Poquito Quema'o* is a solid musical mixture of dancehall reggae, ska, salsa, and Latin soul. Although lacking specific information this appears to be a collection of Cuban musicians in Europe with some Europeans. Fans of groups like Ozomatli, Los Mocosos, and Latin hip-hop/reggae should like the high-energy grooves here. The rhythm section includes congas, timbales, and a heavy bass. The lyrics come from the perspective of a rebellious young man - at times racy and provocative. Trombone and trumpets blast out classic Cuban and reggae melody lines and the keyboard player shines with his salsa chops. Great material for the dance floor.

Peruvian singer Susana Baca has released her second record, *Eco de Sombras* (Echo of Shadows), on David Byrne's Luaka Bop label. Her brilliant first CD was produced by San Francisco's Greg Landau and placed Afro-Peruvian music prominently on the world music map. Her emotive and sensual vocals stem from elements preserved by the African descendants in Peru.

The rhythms are played by slapping the cajón (wooden box) which propels the bass, guitar, and percussion. This traditionally sparse music, so well documented on her first recording, is augmented by the addition of Marc Ribot on electric guitar and keyboard player Medeski of Medeski, Martin & Wood.

They largely supply textural elements to the mix and don't seem to influence the compositions. Baca's vocals are the main feature and the chorus call-and-response elevates the musical drama. The deep African aspects make for some strong

songs, but her first record is stronger. While there are some great moments here and the musical moods are easily felt, the diminished presence of the cajón and percussion softens its impact.

The Mr. Bongo label based in England has released another great Brazilian collection simply entitled *Brazilian Beats*. The material is heavy on the drums and percussion including some club-friendly re-mixed cuts. In particular, the "dope mix" from New York's afro-house club alchemists, Masters at Work, with Liliana on vocals, blends modern dance treatments with Brazilian rhythm and soul vocals. There's also plenty for the percussion purists, for example Airto Moreira and Ney De Castro. No Brazilian collection would be complete without the funk, and numerous cuts here showcase the Brazil/funk fusion. Where else could one here a Perez Prado tune funkified-up with Brazilian rhythm?

Cuba's unstoppable dance music returns April 29th with Los Van Van at the Civic auditorium along with salsa diva, India, from New York, and the very popular merengue band, Grupo Mania. This promises to be more than just a concert!

*Thursday's live Salsa and Latin bands continue at the Elbo Room. Here's April's line-up:*

April 6th - Jesús Diaz & QBA, Cuban salsa.

April 13th - Charanga, Tumbao y Cuerdas, charanga/salsa.

April 20th - Cascabulho, F music direct from Northeast Brazil.

The Elbo Room is on Valencia between 17th & 18th. Doors open at 10pm. As always, DJ BabaLoup spins the Afro-Latin grooves.

Viva La Musica!

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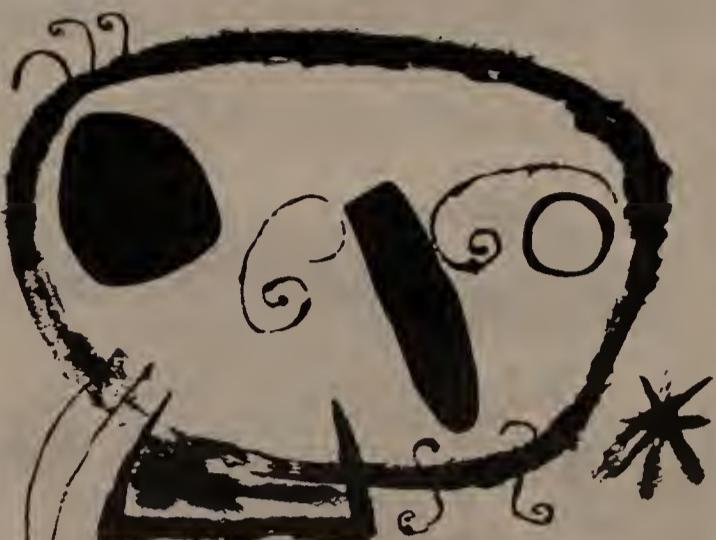
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